

# **Abstract**

Freemasonry in the Course of the History.

The present work deals with the historical development and function of the organization of the brotherhood of Freemasons. Based on the available literature, this work tries to summarize especially the mythical aspects of the modern history of the organization after 1717. An emphasis is placed on the development of the English and French Freemasonry, but this work also briefly introduces the reader to the situation in other European countries and in America. Furthermore, the work deals with Masonic symbolism, which is an integral part of the organization and certainly essential to a sufficient understanding of the organization. An important chapter deals with initiation the ceremonies and the rituals that illustrate the general idea of Freemasons. In conclusion, the paper presents an analysis of the relationship between the organization and the Church, in historical context, and the position of women among the Masons.